

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

22nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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MIDDLETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED FEMA GRANT

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded a \$140,672 grant to the Middletown Fire Department under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The grant was among 155 awarded nationwide in the third round of grants for fiscal year 2003.

"The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program continues to pay off for fire companies in the 22nd Congressional District," said Hinchey. "We've put a lot of time and effort into funding the grant program and then making sure our companies are able to put together the best possible application. The grant announced today will help Middletown firefighters to better meet the challenges they face and to maximize their safety."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program was created by the 106th Congress and authorized for \$400 million over two years. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has strongly supported providing full funding for the program. He has sponsored a number of workshops across the 22nd Congressional District to help fire departments with the grant application process.

Fire companies had the opportunity to apply for assistance in any of four categories: fire operations and firefighter safety, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicles. Middletown applied under the fire operations and firefighter safety category. The FEMA grants represent 90 percent of the full cost of the company's proposal.

After three rounds of Assistance to Firefighters Grants for fiscal year 2003, fire companies in New York's 22nd Congressional District have been awarded \$213,761.